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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1943 No. 48

THE BATTLE FOR SICILY

GENERAL MONTGOMERY

The Germans in Sicily are doomed. The days of the Boches are numbered

General Montgomery, Commander of the British Eighth Army on Monday (August 9)

The Battle for Sicily is over, and won

Reuter's Special Correspondent with the Eighth Army

It is now a question of who can walk the fastest

An Eighth Army Staff Officer

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FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF WAR

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR TO BROADCAST

His Excellency has agreed to broadcast either in person or by means of a recording at 7-45 p.m. on September 3, on the occasion of the Fourth Anniversary of the War.

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CO-OPERATION BETWEEN NATIONS

There remains the system of co-operation between nation groups based on some principle of unity, whether of geography or of political outlook or of racial or historical connection. Our enemies have grasped one aspect of this world need in their posing as the champions of a European "New Order" or of a Far Eastern "Co-prosperity Sphere." What they have not realised is that such a new order can only live if it is based not on domination of *Herrenvolk*, but on equal partnership between free nations. The evolution in Europe, in the Far East, in South America of free Commonwealths comparable in scale and importance with the British Empire, the United States or the Russian Union of Republics seems to me to offer the most promising line of evolution towards a more peaceful and better ordered world that we can hope for in the future. In that evolution, it is for us of the British Commonwealth to give a lead at the first experimental stage, in methods of consultation and co-operation in wireless communication to help us maintain an united policy and united outlook on all our essential problems of defence, of mutual trade and of co-operation in social progress. Ever more important than a mere mechanism of co-operation is the spirit that must animate it.

—MR. L. S. AMERY, *at York, on August 9.*

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THE SUPREME TEST

The supreme test of our whole system will lie in whether we succeed or fail in the years after the war, in winning a free India, united and at peace within herself to the acceptance of her own unfettered choice of privileges and responsibilities of the Commonwealth and to that high place in its counsels as in those of the world to which her political greatness and gifts of her people should entitle her. Nothing can be of greater consequence to our own peace and to that of the world than to prove by our example that the free Commonwealth can embrace peoples of every race and colour and that the internecine conflicts of Europe need not be a mere prelude to even greater and more terrible racial conflicts in future.

—MR. L. S. AMERY, *in an address to teachers at York, on August 9.*

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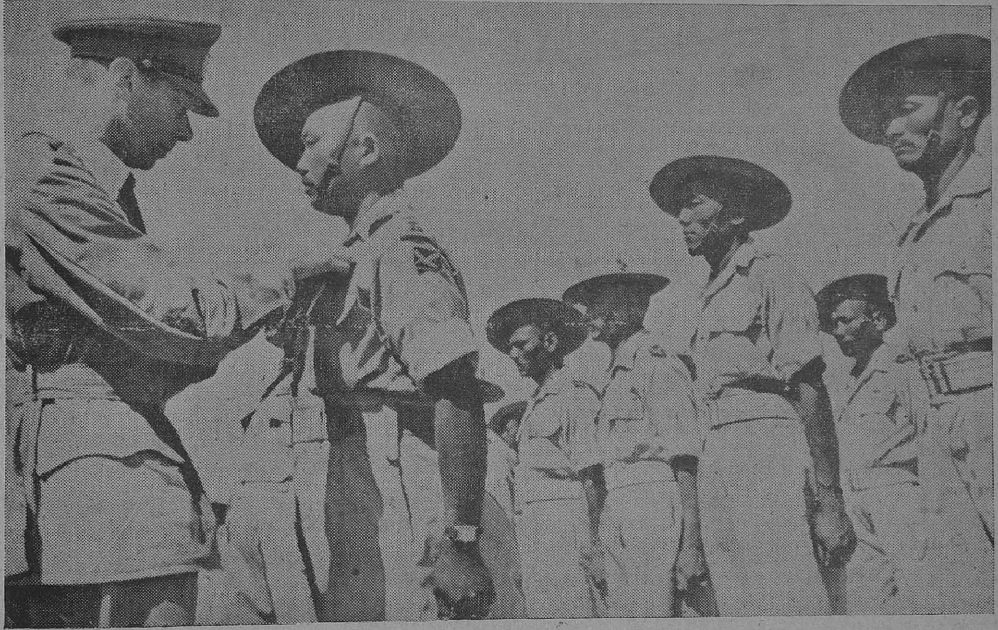


KING AWARDS VICTORIA CROSS TO INDIAN SOLDIER.—Subadar Lalbahadur Thapa of the Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army, is awarded the Victoria Cross by King George of England during the King's recent visit to North Africa. This was the fifth Victoria Cross awarded to a member of the Indian Army since the start of the war. This picture was sent by radio from North Africa to the United States.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Italy : Allied Warning Put into Effect after "Breathing Space."

On Saturday night (August 7), a strong force of Royal Air Force Lancasters bombed Milan, Turin and Genoa, three of the most important towns of Italy, where two-thirds of her total industrial production is centred. The Swiss radio said, "The raid on Milan was carried out in several waves. The attack lasted about one hour. Ground defences and night fighters were active. From the frontier huge fires were clearly visible. Towards the morning these disappeared behind a vast cloud of smoke." Thus the Allied warning that heavy bombing of Italy would be resumed because of Marshal Badoglio's procrastination has been put into effect. A short "breathing space" was afforded to the new Italian Government to make up their mind. Speaking in the House of Commons on July 27, Mr. Churchill said that it would be wise to let the Italian crisis work itself out a little longer, that "there may be several stages of transition," and that "it would be a grave mistake when Italian affairs are in this flexible, fluid and formative condition for the rescuing powers of Britain and United States so to act as to break down the whole structure and expression of the Italian State." Five days after Mr. Churchill's

Fourth Anniversary of War

The following official announcement was issued from Buckingham Palace :

"It is the desire of His Majesty that Friday, September 3, being the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of war, should be observed as a national day of prayer and dedication."

speech, that is, on August 1, the United Nations radio at Algiers warned the Italians that the "breathing space" allowed them since July 25, was drawing to a close and that the time was come when BADOGLIO'S Government should unequivocally declare its policy and intentions about the war. "Soon," added the Algiers radio, "the air offensive will begin again in earnest, by day and by night." And the air offensive has begun in right earnest, because the Allies could not wait indefinitely for the Italian crisis to work out its own leisurely course!

* * * *

Choice before Italians—New Government and Old Folly. The Allies wanted that the initiative should come from the Italian people themselves, who had been held in bondage for a period of 20 years. This bondage was broken by, to use Mr. CHURCHILL'S words, the "external shock of war," and now the choice before the Italian people was whether they would secure for themselves, "relief from war, freedom from servitude and, after an interval, a respectable place in the new and rescued Europe" or decide to continue the war against the United Nations as a partner-in-crime with Hitlerite Germany. Mr. CHURCHILL felt convinced that the Italians wanted to be quit of their German taskmasters and wished to revive their former democratic and parliamentary institutions. He was also convinced that the Germans desired Italy to remain a battle-ground so as to keep the war away from Germany itself. If BADOGLIO'S Government decided to remain under the German yoke, the Premier made it clear that it would not "affect seriously the general course of the war, still less would it alter its ultimate result." If the new Government persisted in the old folly, the consequence would be an Italy "seared, scarred and blackened from one end to the other." The bombing of Milan, Turin and Genoa is only a beginning of this blackening process.

* * * *

One Obstacle between Italy and United Nations. President ROOSEVELT has emphasized the fact that it was essential that the Italian people should be made to realize the futility of continuing the war. General EISENHOWER made the position very clear in his statement. He said that two obstacles stood between them and the United Nations—Fascism and the presence of German aggressors on Italian soil. Italy had got rid of Fascism, but not the German aggressors. Italians no doubt gave themselves up to joyous demonstrations after the fall of MUSSOLINI, but the Government which had stepped into the shoes of the Fascist regime did not seek peace. Ardent political debates about the future of Italy have been taking place, but the Allies could not wait for any length of time for the Italians to come to a definite decision. To them Italy was still a belligerent nation; to them the war was still an unfinished business. The Algiers radio reminded the Italians of the need of acting in time and told them that the "breathing space" given was used by the Germans to strengthen their defensive positions both in Italy and in the Balkans.

BADOGLIO has declared that the "war continues" and nothing has happened till now to show that Italy is willing to sue for peace on Allied terms. So the bombing has started again. Sometime ago, MUSSOLINI squealed at the terrific pounding inflicted by the Royal Air Force. Now BADOGLIO must be made to squeal.

* * * *

Axis Propaganda—Goebbels Talks of Germany "Carrying on Alone." German reactions to the fall of MUSSOLINI afford an interesting insight into the psychology of Axis propaganda. The suddenness of the changes in Italy found GOEBBELS, for the first time perhaps, literally speechless. On July 26th he cancelled the usual three main radio talks for the German Home Front; for over 30 hours the Berlin radio only broadcast the bare news of MUSSOLINI'S resignation, which was attributed to ill-health. But, later, another explanation was given with a view to removing any feelings of bewilderment or uncertainty as regards the repercussions which the exit of the Duce might have on the security of Germany itself. The explanation was that the resignation was only a constitutional formality which did not affect Italy's alliance with Germany. This line of propaganda was emphasized for all it was worth during the week. GOEBBELS was anxious to persuade the German public that Italy would not desert them. BADOGLIO'S phrase "the war continues" was included in every news-bulletin broadcast from Berlin.

Later, GOEBBELS began to develop the theme that Germany was still strong, the implication being that even if Italy deserts Germany, the war can still be carried on. Lord HAW-HAW said, "Germany to-day relies on her own strength, and she can rely on it in the perfect certainty that it will suffice to gain for her arms the reward and blessing of a total victory." For some time of late, German home propaganda and, to some extent propaganda to the occupied countries of Europe, have been stressing the idea that Germany is strong enough in her well-organized central position to maintain herself, if necessary, alone, or at any rate to live on her victims and do without her Allies. This was the undercurrent in the main stream of Nazi propaganda after MUSSOLINI'S fall, and it has now distinctly come up to the surface.

* * * *

Goebbels Planning for Propaganda Retreat in Advance. The point to be noted is that GOEBBELS is emphasizing, not the strength of *Festung Europa* but Germany's own strength. The concept of the "impregnable fortress of Europe" has been quietly dropped. The official summary of the Berlin Press stated, "The German people will continue the struggle until final victory, conscious of its military power and its inner strength." The underlying idea seems to be to impress on the public that Germany alone will continue the war. GOEBBELS is thus preparing the way for the big propaganda campaign which must follow later if Italy collapses. A Nazi-controlled Czech newspaper has, in a revealing comment, said on July 28, "Germany is invincible on the mainland as long as her population remains united and as long as the German army holds the fundamental European key positions. These positions are the coasts of Norway, the French Atlantic coast, the lower reaches of the Rhine, the Brenner Pass and the Danube Gates with other points in the Balkans." It is not clear from this or from German propaganda in general as to where the eastern wall of the "fortress of Germany" lies! It is as yet too early to say whether the German High Command has planned a retreat to the Brenner Pass and the Danube Gates, but it is clear that GOEBBELS has already planned out in advance a retreat from "unassailable" European fortress propaganda theme to that of an "invincible" fortress of Germany.

A CORRECTION

The map illustrating the article on Japan's Military Position in the Pacific by Mr. R. W. Robson, published in *Madras War Review*, dated July 30, 1943, represents the war situation at the time the article was written. Since then, the Allies have occupied a large part of New Guinea and a considerable portion of the Solomons.

INVASION OF SICILY

SICILY: Scene on the beach as troops, guns, tanks and transports are rushed ashore to go straight into action.

General Montgomery tours a captured town in Sicily in an American amphibian vehicle.

SICILY: "THE BATTLE IS WON"

AN announcement issued by the British Home Office on Wednesday, refers to an unspecified occasion on which His Majesty the King-Emperor might wish to call the nation to prayer. The announcement says, "Notice for this might have to be short, it is therefore hoped that all those who have the responsibility of leading worship of the people will prepare themselves in advance and make such plans as may be practicable and desirable in their own areas for the Sunday so appointed." It is not quite clear from the announcement whether the occasion for thanksgiving will have something to do with the Allied victory which will shortly be completed in Sicily.

THAT such a victory will be fully achieved there is no doubt. In his summing-up of the operations on Monday, General Montgomery, the great Commander of the British Eighth Army, declared, "The Germans in Sicily are doomed. The days of the Boches are numbered." *Reuter's* Special Correspondent with the Eighth Army's vanguard, said that the Battle for Sicily was over, and won. A Staff Officer of the Eighth Army said, "It is now a question of who can walk the fastest." The position at the time of writing is that Allied troops are very near Randazzo, the focal point of the German defences north of Mount Etna, and have captured Acireale on the east coast of Sicily, which is within 45 miles of Messina and within 25 miles of the Sicilian side of the Messina Straits. If Randazzo is captured, the Germans in the coastal corridor east of Etna and in front of the Eighth Army's right wing will be in danger of being trapped in the bottleneck by the advance of Allied troops from Randazzo to the east coast. The Germans are now desperately trying to delay the Allied advance and their resistance is assuming a back-to-the-wall character. Guardia, north of Acireale on the east coast, has since been captured, and the Eighth Army is now in sight of the Italian mainland.

THE present position of Axis troops in the triangular bridgehead in the north-east corner of the island affords a close parallel to the Tunisian campaign. Both in topography and defences, the north-east corner of Sicily resembles the Tunisian tip. Just as the Allies maintained a concentrated and sustained pressure on the hundred-mile enemy defence line in Tunisia, so also in Sicily there is a similar pressure on the sixty-mile Mt. Etna-Nebrodi line. There is, however, one difference between Tunisia and Sicily, and that is, the close proximity of Axis troops to the Italian mainland from which they are able to bring up reinforcements.

THE object of the Allies in carrying out repeated and concentrated bombing on Messina, Reggio di Calabria and other mainland towns is to prevent enemy reinforcements and supplies going to Sicily. In spite of continued bombing of Messina, the enemy is still using its harbour, and this shows that he is prepared to risk anything in the hope of getting reinforcements and supplies across swiftly, as they are urgently needed.

BUT there seems to be something mysterious about the whole Axis defence of Sicily, one of the main entraces to the "European Fortress." If Sicily is captured by the Allies, they will have a base from which their land, sea and air forces in combination can operate under the most ideal conditions. In other words, with the sea and air supremacy of the Allies, Sicily will be as good as a part of the European mainland.

THEREFORE, it was to be expected that the Germans would have thought it worth while to defend Sicily with German armies in a much greater degree than they did Tunisia. They also boasted that an Allied landing from the sea at any point in Europe would immediately be destroyed. Further it was to their interest to have concentrated a good deal of their military strength in Sicily. They had 8 weeks, after the Tunisian defeat, in which to prepare for the defence. Though they had to watch the Balkans, Crete and other danger spots in Europe, they knew well that a major amphibious operation was being mounted in the Western Mediterranean. But still there was no rush of German divisions to Sicily. Even after six days of the Allied landings in Italy's outpost, Allied headquarters reported that our forces were "not meeting with any srious opposition."

TO what is the absence of any concerted counter-offensive on the part of the Axis due ? The question deserves some attention, as it has some bearing on the subsequent stages in the invasion of Europe. It seems that the German High Command have, in spite of Italian protests, abandoned all idea of defending Sicily in force with German troops, and have decided to limit themselves only to a delaying action. This is being carried out by the two or three German divisions and some parachute and anti-aircraft personnel.

THE real reason for such a decision on the part of the German High Command is the expulsion of the *Luftwaffe* from North Tunisia and the resultant military debacle. In Tunisia an army of 300,000 men suddenly became an aimless mob anxious to surrender themselves and their vast quantities of first-class equipment. The Allies had exploited their great air supremacy there only too well. After Tunisia, the Allied air offensive pushed forward to Sicily. The *Luftwaffe* made strenuous efforts to save the situation and brought in bomber squadrons and strong reinforcements of fighters. But they became dangerously expensive, and there was nothing left except the question of depleting the fighter cover of West Germany and "western approaches" or of the Russian front. Without doing that, it was highly impossible for the Axis to hold its own in the Sicilian skies, and without sufficient air strength, it would be foolish to risk the destruction of precious German divisions, drawn at very great risk from Norway or France, on the Sicilian battle-front.

NOW the fate of Sicily is sealed. It is only a question of time when its "Cape Bon Peninsula" would fall. It is possible that remnants of the Axis forces may evacuate to Italy through Messina, which is only four miles distant from the Italian mainland. It may be asked whether it is not possible to cut the line of retreat. Though Allied air forces are pounding Messina and trying to render the port unusable, the narrow sea passage will be helpful to small Axis speed-boats to make swift journeys to and fro. And the Royal Navy cannot operate in the too narrow straits of Messina which are very near to hostile air-fields.

STALINGRAD and Tunisia are too fresh in our minds—and now comes Sicily, to add yet another laurel to the Allied brow. It may be said that Germany's decision over Sicily has decided the fate of Italy itself—not immediatey, perhaps, but in the no distant future.

INDIAN COMFORTS FUND, LONDON

MADRAS CONTRIBUTION, "AN INSPIRATION TO OUR WORK"

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S VISIT TO INDIAN SEAMEN'S HOSTEL

HOSTEL FOR INDIAN SEAMEN IN LIVERPOOL.—A hostel for Indian seamen in Liverpool has been opened at Mere Hall, a country house in Birkenhead. The house, whose grounds cover nine acres, has been refitted to suit the convenience of the seamen, and is said to be the best equipped hostel in Britain. The cost of the venture, including that of running the hostel, is being borne by the shipowners, and in this respect it is the first hostel of its kind in Britain. Photo shows a general view of Mere Hall.

IN a broadcast to India on Tuesday (August 10), Sir Samuel Runganadhan, High Commissioner for India in London, referred to the great assistance received by the Indian Seamen's Hostel from the Indian Comforts Fund, which provided standard parcels of clothing and comforts to all Indian seamen of the merchant navy who came to ports in the United Kingdom. It may interest our readers to know that a contribution of £15,000 was recently sent from His Excellency the Governor's War Fund, Madras, to the Indian Comforts Fund to be utilized for the benefit of Indian Seamen. "This gift" says Mrs. Florence Amery, Chairman of the Indian Comforts Fund, India House, London, in a letter to His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, "has been an inspiration to our work," and she has requested His Excellency, on behalf of the Committee of the Indian Comforts Fund, to "express our most grateful thanks to all who have contributed."

Our readers would be interested to learn that the Indian Comforts Fund has been doing quite a lot for Indian fighting forces in Britain and Indian prisoners of war abroad.

DETAILS OF WORK DONE

The following facts gathered from the annual report of the Fund for April 1942—March 1943 throw a good deal of light on the details of the work done by the Fund:—

In April, 1942 the Fund was caring for some 2,500 Indian Prisoners of War (including seamen) in Europe. This number gradually increased throughout the summer as the campaigns in North Africa developed, until in August, 1942 it had to be prepared for a total of 18,500 Indian prisoners. Sanction was accordingly obtained from the Indian Red Cross to pack 20,000 weekly food parcels with effect from September 7th, and the Stores Department of the Fund had to be considerably expanded to permit of 704 next of kin clothing parcels being packed each week.

By December, 1942, it had become evident that fortunately this estimate had proved unduly pessimistic, so by the end of November it was felt safe to cut down food parcels to 15,000 and clothing parcels to 608 weekly. By 2nd January, 1943, a further reduction was found possible to 10,000 food and 400 clothing parcels respectively each week.

The excess number packed during the last quarter of 1942 were by no means wasted as they formed a very valuable reserve at Geneva against unforeseen contingencies.

One important decision with regard to the next of kin clothing parcels was made with effect from 7th September. From this date it was decided that the parcels should last six months instead of three as heretofore. Accordingly no article of clothing is now included that has not a life of at least six months, and the miscellaneous comforts have been increased to what is considered adequate to last for half a year.

During the 52 weeks from 6th April 1942 to 3rd April 1943, 544,388 special Indian food parcels were packed and despatched to Geneva.

"CASTE-PROOF" PARCELS

Each parcel contains a complete and balanced diet which has been specially planned with the assistance of dieticians and nutrition experts to supply what is lacking in the prison camp rations. Here is a standard parcel:

*Margarine	*Milk	Sugar	Indian lentils
Indian flour	Biscuits	Tea	Rice
Curry powder	*Chocolate	Vegetables	Tinned fruit
Salt	Salmon		

* Specially fortified with vitamins.

The parcel is "caste-proof" and can be fully enjoyed by all classes, castes, religions or creeds. Toilet soap is included.

Clothing parcels are all paid for and packed by the Indian Comforts Fund which acts as next of kin to each prisoner. During the 12 months 6th April 1942 to 3rd April 1943, 23,162 of these parcels have been sent to Geneva for distribution, enough for 2 parcels for each man.

A typical parcel contains selections from the following.—

Towel	Pullover	Chewing gum	Tooth paste
Shirt	Cap	Razor	Shaving soap
Vest	Scarf	Razor blades	Belt
Pants	Gloves	Tooth brush	Bootlaces
3 prs. socks	Shoes	Hair brush	Mending material
Sunlight soap	Comb	Pencil	Keating's powder

The Fund also sends out hair oil and special articles for Sikhs when it is possible. Others have been sent direct to Geneva from India by the Indian Red Cross.

Both food and next of kin clothing parcels bear special markings to show they are for Indians only and are sent in bulk and not addressed to individuals for the following reasons:

(*a*) Prisoners may be moved from camp to camp.

(*b*) If part of a consignment is lost, the remainder can be divided between camps.

(*c*) New prisoners can receive parcels before their names reach London.

It is now known that there are approximately 14,000 Indian prisoners of war in German and Italian hands in Europe. Arrangements have accordingly been made to pack and dispatch 14,000 weekly food parcels and 560 weekly clothing parcels with effect from 17th May 1943.

BOOKS

In December, 1942, His Majesty The King expressed a wish that a portion of his gift towards Prisoners of War Libraries should be allotted to Indians. Unfortunately, one large consignment of Indian books, sent by the Indian Red Cross from India, failed to reach Britain. Others however were available and were sent off as token parcels to the camps in Germany and Italy, each book bearing a label affixed by the Librarian of Windsor Castle to commemorate the nature of the gift. Payment for the books was made to the Indian Red Cross from His Majesty's privy purse. During the year other books were also despatched whenever available, and the Fund now holds its own special export censor permit.

INDIAN SEAMEN

During the 52 weeks under review 27,298 bundles of clothing have been packed and sent to Indian Seamen of the Merchant Navy in Britain. These have been distributed to ships, and shore establishments by the High Commissioner's special Indian Seamen's Welfare Officers and other voluntary representatives of established organizations.

The following further grants have been made to Hostels from the gracious gift of Her Majesty the Queen, allocated for this purpose:

£100 between the three Welsh ports of Swansea, Newport, and Cardiff.

£40 for furniture and a gramophone to Mersey Missions, Birkenhead.

£200 for Mere Hall, the new residential club for Indian seamen at Liverpool.

£200 for the recently opened Indian seamen's club at Hull.

£100 promised to British Sailors' Society for projected club for Indian seamen at Avonmouth.

In his broadcast speach from London on Tuesday, Sir Samuel Runganadhan, referred to the lounge room in the Indian Seamen's Hostel at Birkenhead (see photo on this page) which was furnished from the allotment made to the Indian Comforts Fund by Her Majesty the Queen.

Photo shows the lounge of the Indian Seamen's Hostel.

THIS WEEK—IN RETROSPECT!

By " CHRONICLER "

According to Lord Trenchard, Marshal of the Royal Air Force in England, it was Mr. J. M. Spaight who styled the series of aerial engagements in 1940 over Britain as the Battle of Britain, 1940. Mr. Spaight is the author of a volume entitled " The Battle of Britain, 1940 " and the Marshal of the Royal Air Force has furnished a foreword for the same.

Mr. Spaight, however, explains: " The U-boat campaign is as definitely a part of the Battle of Britain as is the air attack upon our cities. It is indeed the greatest of the dangers with which we are confronted . . . To defeat the submarine is for us the most important task of all. Defence against the air attack is, in comparison, of secondary moment." We are here, however, concerned with the aerial battle of Britain which raged over Britain during this week and continued in the succeeding ones with increasing intensity.

Major-General J. E. Chaney of the United States Army Air Corps who served for a month as Official Observer in Britain said on December 3, 1940, in a statement to the press that the aerial battle waged over England in August and September would be bracketed in history with Marathon and Waterloo as one of the world's decisive military engagements.

" The Knights of the Round Table, the Crusaders," said Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons on June 4, 1940, referring to the work of the Royal Air Force, " all fell back into a prosaic past, not only distant but prosaic, before these young men going forth every morn to guard their native land and all that we stand for, holding in their hands those instruments of colossal and shattering power, of whom it may be said that ' every morn brought forth a noble chance and every chance brought forth a noble deed.' " The British fighters had already won their spurs from the beaches of Dunkirk and established their superiority in combat to the airmen of the *Luftwaffe*, achieving what, in the words of Mr. Churchill, " was a victory inside this deliverance."

BEGINNING OF THE BLITZ

The air battle over England began on August 8, 1940. Major-General Chaney regards this battle as divided into three phases, the first stage commencing from August 8 to 15, the second from September 5 to 15, and the third from September 27 and still continuing. In the first phase the German attack, carried out by waves of bombers escorted by fighters, was directed against shipping and aerodromes. In the second phase the German aircraft flew at a greater height and tried to flank their targets; but in both the phases they were met and defeated by the Royal Air Force. The third phase was marked by the flying of enemy fighters at far greater heights 25,000 to 30,000 feet, for bombing by day, and of big bombers for bombing by night.

No doubt there had been earlier engagements than August 8. There was one at Dover on July 29; another on May 9 when incendiary and high explosive bombs were dropped in a wood near Canterbury. Even still earlier raids had taken place, so early as 16th October 1939 when the first German raid of the war against Great Britain took place. On that day a dozen enemy bombers attacked various naval units at Rosyth and the Firth of Forth.

These were, however, mere raids, what General Goering would call armed reconnaissances. The regular aerial offensive against Britain by the *Luftwaffe*, the series of battles in the air, began on August 8, 1940, when more than fifty enemy aircraft were destroyed over or round British coasts. The ultimate purpose behind these massed air attacks in August and September was the creation of conditions favourable to the landing of a German army in England. There is ample evidence that invasion was actually planned for mid-September, which was only prevented from materialising by the blows which the Royal Air Force struck at the " invasion ports " in Holland, Belgium and France.

The Royal Air Force began regular raiding of the interior of Germany before Germans began that of the interior of Britain with this difference that the former was directed mainly against military objectives, while the latter was, in effect at least, upon civil population. British Aircraft of the Advanced Air Striking Force in France attacked lines of communications in Germany so early as May 14, 1940, with a view to easing the pressure upon British and French armies. The German News Agency stated on May 18 that the raid on May 17 was the seventy-second to be made on German territory since May 10. Thenceforth the nightly raids of the Royal Air Force into Germany have been almost continuous.

On August 8, 1940, a force of about 400 German aircraft, largely dive-bombers with escort of Messerschmitt fighters, attempted repeatedly to attack convoys in the narrow waters and were engaged by British Hurricanes and Spitfires in a series of encounters which continued from 9 o'clock in the morning until 5 in the evening. Britain lost nineteen fighters and seventeen pilots and destroyed thirty-six of the German fighters as well as twenty-four bombers, the total bag for the day being sixty enemy aircraft. Three days later the *Luftwaffe* made a mass attack on Portland and Weymouth and Germans lost sixty-five aircraft out of the 400 engaged all round the south coast of Britain. On the 11th, Britain lost twenty-six fighters and twenty-four pilots. On the 12th Portsmouth was attacked and British fighters shot down fifty-five German aircraft and the anti-aircraft gunners destroyed seven more. Southampton was raided on the 13th and 14th when the *Luftwaffe* lost seventy-eight and thirty-one aircraft respectively.

* * * * *

In the Italian invasion of British Somaliland, which took place in the first week of August 1940, the first points in the game went to the Italians. The British garrison retired from Somaliland and embarked at Berbera under naval protection. The garrison put up a gallant defence; but it was very small compared to the Italian forces, and consisted mainly of the units of the Somaliland Camel Corps. During the war it had been reinforced from India up to the point where it was thought that, in combination with the somewhat larger forces of the French in French Somaliland, it would be strong enough to repel invasion. These calculations were upset by the collapse of France, when the Italians saw their opportunity and invaded the country in three columns. The affair was of no great importance except as regards prestige. The Axis powers naturally stressed their success in glowing terms and the evacuation of Somaliland was interpreted as a definite defeat.

CONVOY TO MALTA

When, however, the desperate Battle of Britain was going on, the British Government despatched an immense convoy through the Mediterranean with reinforcements and war material for the Navy, Army and the Royal Air Force. The convoy braved the Axis submarines and flotillas in the Mediterranean and without losing a single vessel, dropped a part of the supplies and men in Malta and disembarked its precious cargo at Alexandria. From that moment the situation in the Middle East improved, as will be evident from the British offensive commenced from the middle of September 1940.

But the improvement was far from being satisfactory. Two events had taken place almost simultaneously which endangered the Middle Eastern situation. The term Middle East, it must be remembered, is applied to countries east and south of the Eastern Mediterranean, namely, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and Libya, with extensions to Iraq, Iran, the Sudan and Abyssinia; while the term Near East is applied to countries of South-eastern Europe, mainly to the Balkans. One of the events was the entry of Italy into the war on 11th June 1940 and the other was the cessation of hostilities in France on the 25th June 1940. These were events which had far-reaching and dangerous consequences and which, according to Major-General H. Rowan-Robinson, were the following:—

Domination of the Mediterranean by the Allied Navies seemed for a time likely to become a thing of the past. The strength of the British fleet in that sea had been calculated in expectance of co-operation with the French fleet and was now far below that of the Italian fleet. The latter, moreover, contained a large number of light craft, surface and sub-surface, that seemed certain to render the transport of British reinforcements and supplies for the Middle East a perilous, if not impossible, undertaking.

The loss to the Allied cause of the French air squadrons in Syria and North Africa and the entry into the battle of the *Regia Aeronautica*, completely changed the balance of power in the air. The Fascist fliers possessed a frontline strength estimated at 1,500 aircraft, and with many world records and the honours of Abyssinia and Spain emblazoned on their wings, their inherent weakness was unsuspected. Their service to the strategy of the Axis, not being required elsewhere than in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean, they could develop in that theatre the maximum of power and thus be assured of an immense preponderance in numbers in an area where they already possessed every advantage of position.

Based on Sardinia, Southern Italy and Sicily they were well placed for an assault on British fleet and transports. In such action they would be practically unopposed, except by machines of the Fleet Air Arm which always suffer in comparison with Land Aircraft, owing to limitations of space, both of housing and take-off. On the borders of Libya, Italian aircraft would be within easy bombing reach of the Suez Canal, and the naval base at Alexandria, both of them objectives of cardinal importance to the Empire. From the Dodecanese the

Italian bombers could strike British oil refineries and oil tankers at Haifa and damage that excellent little harbour.

The entry of Italy and the exit of France had another adverse effect on our prospects in the Mediterranean. It deprived British aircraft of stepping stones to Egypt in France and North Africa and determined that British fighters at least must travel there at a snail's pace, packed on shipboard.

On land the defection of France left on the Levantine front a huge gap which might be exploited for Axis advance eastward, should Italy win command of the sea. It also deprived Britain of the fine leadership of Weygand and of the help of what had probably been the best French army in the field.

Finally it enabled Mussolini, instead of having to face both ways in Libya, to ignore his Tunisian front and to concentrate the bulk of his great army in that province towards Egypt.

Abyssinia would now play a part by the sea, land and air. From her modernized ports of Massawa and Assab, she flanked at very short range shipping in the Red Sea; and at Mogadishu, she threatened the route round the Cape to India.

" Seldom, if ever, in our history, except through direct defeat, has there been so sudden, and to all appearances so catastrophic, a transformation scene in a situation which had previously appeared eminently satisfactory. Certain it is that our position in the Middle East in the months of July and August was decidedly precarious and must have caused the gravest anxiety to the Government."

COUNCIL OF PLACENTIA

In a boadcast message from London on 14th August 1941, while H.M.S. the *Prince of Wales* was still at sea on her homeward voyage after the Council of Placentia, Mr. Attlee gave the world the text of the Atlantic Charter. The fact, however, is the Charter was approved by the President and the Prime Minister on August 12, 1940, shortly before Mr. Churchill sailed on his return voyage. Actually there was no signing of any document at all, as it is often misunderstood, no sealing of any document with wax. After the draft of the Charter was agreed upon by Mr. Roosevelt and by Mr. Churchill, the text was telegraphed to London and Washington. In London a special meeting of the War Cabinet considered it, and having agreed upon all its points, the Cabinet telegraphed its approval to Mr. Churchill, while Washington telegraphed approval to the President. The original Atlantic Charter is several sheets of typescript, while the Charter, as approved by the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, takes the form of two long telegrams.

THE COUNCIL OF PLACENTIA, HELD ON AUGUST 9, 1941, MADE HISTORY. It was as a result of the deliberations of this Council, composed of Mr. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, and Mr. Churchill, Premier of Great Britain, that the Atlantic Charter, approved by both of them and by the Governments of the two countries, came into being on the 12th August 1941, by which the leaders of the two English-speaking nations strove not for new territory or dominion over mankind, but to prevent the carving up of the world and the enslavement of humanity. Time will show that it was a landmark along the flinty road of freedom, like the Magna Carta or the Declaration of Independence. In the famous words of George Washington at the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in 1787 what the two leaders sought to do was only to raise a standard to which the wise and the honest could repair, leaving the rest in the hands of God.

THE ATLANTIC CHARTER

The following is the full text of the Atlantic Charter:—

The President of the United States (of America) and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, being met together, deem it right to make known certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future of the world.

First, their countries seek no aggrandisement, territorial or other.

Second, they desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned.

Third, they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of Government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.

Fourth, they will endeavour, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further enjoyment of all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity.

Fifth, they desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field, with the object of securing for all improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security.

Sixth, after the final destruction of (the) Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want.

Seventh, such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance.

Eighth, they believe (that) all the nations of world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armaments.

The Atlantic Charter was accepted and endorsed by the representatives of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, U.S.S.R., Yugoslavia, and Free France at a meeting of the Inter-Allied Council held at St. James's Palace on September 29, 1941. On August 24, Mr. Churchill gave a broadcast speech, giving an account of his voyage in the Atlantic and the circumstances which led to the Charter. " The United States and Great Britain," he said, " do not now assume that there will never be any more war again. On the contrary, we intend to take ample precautions to prevent its renewal in any period we can foresee by effectually disarming the guilty nations while remaining suitably protected ourselves." Referring to postwar Germany he said: " Instead of trying to ruin German trade by all kinds of additional trade barriers and hindrances, as was the mood in 1917, we have definitely adopted the view that it is not in the interests of the world and of our two countries that any large nation should be unprosperous or shut out from the means of making a decent living for itself and its people by its industry and enterprise."

One more incident regarding the Atlantic Charter and the picture is complete. In reply to President Roosevelt's message through Mr. Wendell Willkie with a quotation from Longfellow (given in the last issue of the MADRAS WAR REVIEW) Mr. Churchill sent to the President the following four lines from Arthur Hugh Clough:—

" And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light,
In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But Westward, look, the land is bright."

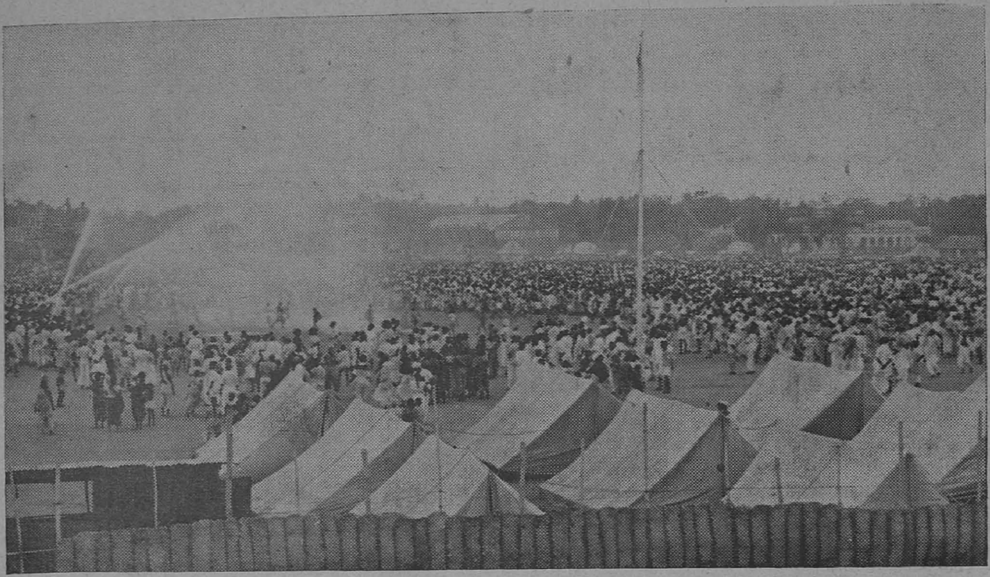
RUSSIA: CAUCASUS SITUATION GRAVE

This week in 1942 saw the fortunes of Russia at its lowest. The Caucasus situation was very grave, Russians withdrawing near Belaya Glina, and facing the fiercest fighting at Rzhev and in the Kletskaya area. Armavir was lost by the Russians and Von Bock continued his drive towards the Maikop oil fields. The position in the North Caucasus deteriorated every moment and the Nazis claimed to have captured Maikop and Krasnador. The position in the Kuban area was also equally critical for the Russian army. In the Stalingrad area the battle flared up with renewed intensity, the Germans bringing up reserves and regrouping them in the Don elbow. Besides this most depressing situation in the fighting front, there was widespread talk of a real threat to Russia from Japan, in spite of the fact that there was the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact.

This week in 1942 witnessed definite events taking place in South-west Pacific, the Allies launching an attack on the 10th of August in the Japanese fortified area of the Solomon islands. The Allied Air Command attacked Japanese shipping and ground installations in Timor in New Guinea. On the North African front it was authoritatively stated in London that both General Auchinleck and General Rommel were preparing for the next impending move in Egypt.

Madras War Services Exhibition

VISUAL DEMONSTRATION OF COUNTRY'S EFFORT



A typical crowd at the War Services Exhibition during a fire fighting demonstration.

The Madras War Services Exhibition, which will be opened by His Excellency the Governor on August the 27th and will last 10 days, is a fifth of the series which started in Delhi in March and has since visited Bombay, Bangalore and Trichinopoly. It is estimated that over 20 lakhs of people have already visited the Exhibition, with an average daily attendance of over 50,000. The next Exhibition is scheduled for Indore, to open early in October. This will be followed by another Exhibition in Nagpur in the middle of November.

The War Services Exhibition has been organized on an educational basis. It is not the intention to show the large quantities of material which the Allies can command but rather to show the fact that Indians are being taught useful trades in the Services and that these trades can very easily be adapted to peacetime requirements. The primary purpose is to strengthen morale by giving the general public a comprehensive visual demonstration of the country's war effort. The bias is technical, and the organizers have not attempted to produce more static exhibits than possible.

The Exhibition is divided into five main sections—Royal Indian Navy, Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Labour Department and Civil.

Royal Indian Navy.—The main exhibits are torpedoes, mines (complete with sinker), naval guns (including a 12-pounder such as the one which was mounted on the *Bengal*), depth-charges, a paravane, ammunition and models of various warships. The forepart of an Indian warship, complete with bridge and guns, was constructed in Bombay and now travels with the Exhibition as part of its permanent equipment.

Indian Army.—This section is well represented with tanks (including General Lees and Valentines), several armoured cars and carriers and a variety of anti-aircraft guns. There are also workshop lorries and bridge-building equipment. The tanks take part in a mock battle and guns fire blank shells ; this performance is repeated daily. There is also a variety of captured enemy equipment, assembled to form the Exhibition's famous "Desert Scene." Separate Army sub-sections are devoted to Sappers and Miners, Signals, Inland Water Transport, etc.

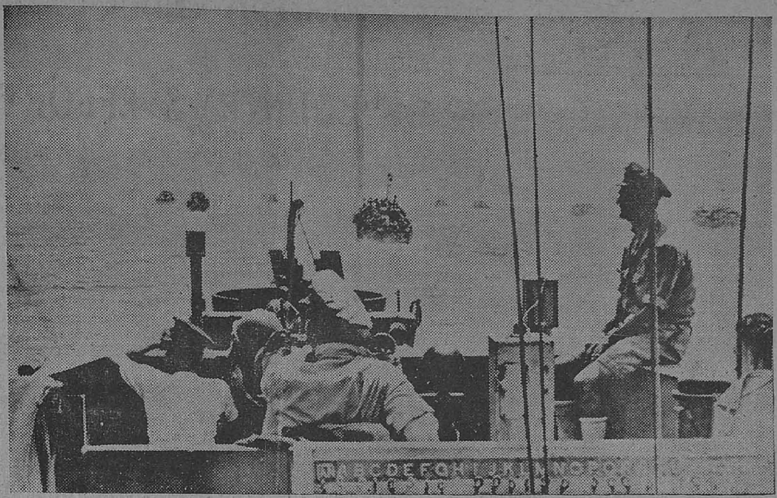
Indian Air Force.—A Hurricane fighter has been displayed on different occasions, also a "made-in-India" aircraft. This has been replaced in Madras by a battle-scarred Blenheim bomber which has taken part in the battles of Britain, Malta and Burma. Another new feature is a "hoppity" plane, specially manufactured recently, which taxis around the ground carrying passengers. There is also a full-scale model of a Hurricane. A smashed-up Japanese bomber is part of the "permanent equipment." There are also model aerodromes and a good working model of a Blenheim bomber showing the mechanism of the under-carriage and safety device. Other exhibits comprise barrage balloons, parachutes, cameras, bomb-sights, gun-turrets, etc.

Labour Department.—The Labour Department have erected a model machine workshop which will be worked by trainees who will be shown actually producing trade test work. In addition, every other trade which is being taught under the Technical Training Scheme is represented.

Civil Section.—The following are represented in the Civil Section of the Exhibition—the Red Cross, the Supply Department, the National War Front, the W.V.S., the W.A.C. (I), Civil Defence, Grow More Food, Local Industries, etc.

An endeavour is made to increase the variety of the exhibits as the Exhibition moves from place to place. Special new features of the Madras Exhibition will be Combined Services operations, displays of aerobatics, a model town and a model farm and trick riding (motor-cycle and horse).

A permanent feature is a free cinema, which will be located in Madras in the spacious auditorium erected by the National War Front. Two military bands will be in daily attendance at the Madras Exhibition, which will be held on the Island Ground. Admission to the Exhibition, and to each individual stall, is free.



UNITED NATIONS TROOPS IN SICILY INVASION ARMADA —Photo shows a view of the United Nations invasion fleet as it set sail for Sicily in the first Allied move to crack the "Fortress Europa." Looking toward the invasion fleet, this photo was made from one of the British landing craft.

SECOND AND THIRD FRONTS

By WICKHAM STEED

NEMESIS, the Greek goddess who punished crimes swiftly, is overtaking the Fascist delinquents of Rome. She has appeared in Sicily. On the Italian mainland her coming is awaited in the near future.

The Sicilian people have welcomed with flowers and songs the Allied armies that execute her behests. On the outskirts of Rome itself the blast of Allied bombs has announced her irrevocable sentence. Mussolini and his gangsters tremble before her. Millions of Italians, like Sicilians, prepare to welcome her as the bringer of freedom.

Among the many episodes characteristic of the Sicilian spirit none is more significant than the request of the clergy that a British officer should take the place of a Fascist satrap who for 20 years held the place of honour at high mass at the Pachino Cathedral.

MORE HOSTILE TO NAZIS

No less significant of the Allied planning is the prompt establishment of a regular Anglo-American military Government in Sicily with the approval of the local population. This Government has annulled Fascist decrees and has liberated political prisoners. Provisions are being made to feed the population and to supply fuel. Between 50,000 and 80,000 tons of coal may be sent each month from Britain.

However cautiously military and political repercussions of the Allied operations in Sicily and Italy are estimated, many signs suggest that may entail a major crisis for the Axis. One such sign is the meeting between Mussolini and Hitler. Far more than the fate of Italy is involved. Hungary, Rumania and the whole of the Balkan peninsular might become a heavy liability for Germany should Italy escape from German control.

Bitter resentment of German behaviour is shown by tens of thousands of Italian troops who with their commanders have voluntarily surrendered to the Allied forces in Sicily. These troops come from many parts of Italy. If other portions of the Italian army share their temper, military resistance on the Italian mainland may have to be entrusted chiefly to German troops.

TIME TO DECIDE

Now it is a question not only of expelling the Germans from Italian soil but of overthrowing a tyrannical Italian system which Germany upholds in the interest of Germany alone. Literally, the choice before Italy is that defined by President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill in their message to the Italian people.

The message told the Italians that all their interests and traditions has been destroyed by Nazi Germany and by their own false and corrupt leaders. Only by destroying both, it said, can reconstituted Italy hope to occupy a respected place in the family of European nations. Therefore, the time has come for her to decide whether the Italians shall die for Mussolini and Hitler or live for Italy and for civilization. Sicily is now making this choice. It would be strange if Italians on the mainland should choose otherwise. I who lived many years in Italy before Fascism polluted her cannot doubt what her choice will be. She will choose freedom and civilization.

The hour is approaching when the Germans also will be obliged to choose. For the first time since Hitler attacked Russia two years ago, the German summer offensive on the Russian front has ended in total failure. For the first time, a Russian summer counter-offensive has been successfully launched.

German reports that from the north to the south, from Leningrad to the Kuban, a fierce struggle is blazing up along the whole Russian front, are still unconfirmed from Russian sources. Yet last winter's fighting proved that Russian commanders never strike more heavily than on the morrow of an unsuccessful German attack.

Could Hitler replace his serious losses in men and material, his prospects might be less gloomy. But British air raids on the Ruhr have laid in ruins his chief sources of military supplies and have obliged him to keep large numbers of men, guns and aircraft in the west.

EAGER HOPE OF MILLIONS

If Sicily and Italy form a second front, the Ruhr and the Rhineland form a third front. Meanwhile, the Allied success in Sicily forbids Hitler to weaken the German forces that guard the European coasts from Norway to Greece.

Viewed comprehensively, this position may well full Hitler's mind with forebodings of disaster. It certainly fills hundreds and millions of downtrodden European peoples with eager hope. They too hear the approaching steps of Nemesis. They too make ready to hail her as the bringer of redemption from evil. For they too remember that she is a Greek goddess charged with the punishment of crime.

KEEP GOING AT HIGHEST PRESSURE

Germany might attack again on the Eastern Front, although she was being defeated there now and was also being defeated in Sicily as in Tunisia. Japan had not yet received the full force of the Allies' might but was being checked and workers could rest assured that we would settle with Japan all right.

In the Balkans, and the satellite countries, the Germans were looking apprehensively over their shoulders. If it took the risk, Germany might still make a substantial attack on Britain some night somewhere. "We have yet to defeat the major enemy. The German army is still great and I bid you keep going at the highest pressure."

—MR. HERBERT MORRISON, *speaking in Lancashire, on August 11.*

FALL OF FASCISM: A SEQUEL TO HARD KNOCKS

By LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR DOUGLAS BROWNRIGG

THERE is nothing wrong in rejoicing over good news so long as the probable consequences of the happy event is not overestimated.

The man who has been responsible for leading Italy to disaster has disappeared from the scene, but the news means much more than that; it is the first practical expression of the nation's change of heart. The lesson we have to learn is that this change of heart has been brought about by hard knocks and not by hard words!

As I see it, the problem now facing the Axis in Europe will be solved in Berlin and not in Rome. The German General Staff must decide (or in truth must already have decided) whether they can afford to prop up their tottering ally by sending him reinforcements or whether to leave him to his fate.

Let us face up—as the General Staff have had to do—to the advantages and disadvantages of these alternatives.

Before considering academically the pros and cons of the first course, I feel sure that the businesslike and highly efficient members of the German High Command will have taken stock of their resources; I am pretty confident that they will have been sadly disappointed. They can hardly have thought it the right moment to take troops or aircraft from Leningrad, Orel, Kursk or the Kuban; they cannot more easily be spared just now from France—at least not until Eisenhower has taken Sicily and played his next card. It is very awkward to move troops from the long, much advertised, Continental West Wall when the air forces of Britain and America have loosed a crescendo of falling bombs over Hamburg and Ruhr and there is nothing much more to be got out of the Balkans. At this stage of their discussion, I fancy that the German High Command will have discarded any idea of sending the Italians any reinforcements; but they will have got some solace from finding an excellent reason for not doing so. They will say that Italian morale is so inferior to that of the Herrenvolk that it is not worth the life of another German soldier to keep such a miserable ally by their side. They can thus escape admitting the real reason—their resources are insufficient for the task.

The second alternative will, in my view, have been accepted and it will be very quickly implemented. But this will not mean a hurried departure of all Germans from the Italian soil. It will develop into a well-conducted retreat covered by an effective rearguard. The first Germans to start for home will be the administrative services in the rear for whom there is no further need; these will be followed, or their movements may well be concurrent, by a thinning of the front opposite the Eighth Army at Catania. The last to come will be the German armies of the north which will be left to the end to execute reprisals to bring discredit on the new regime, should the Italians in the south show any disposition to interfere with orderly withdrawal of German troops. This forecast will be proved or disproved in the course of the next few days; but of one thing there is no possible doubt—the first major crack has appeared in the Axis facade.

The good news in the south must not be allowed to obscure the continued Russian successes in the east. The great German offensive in which 15 armoured divisions took part was brought to a standstill in a week; and the immediate Russian counter-attack which followed has not yet been halted. This is a wonderful achievement on the part of the Red Army without anticipating that the fall of Orel will be a second Stalingrad As soon as the German offensive against Kursk failed, the Russian counter-offensive against the Orel salient was the most likely sequel. The reasons which made the Germans select the Kursk salient for their offensive were equally cogent in suggesting to the Russians the Orel salient for their counter-stroke. It is for this reason that I am not buoying myself up with any hope that the fall of Orel will be a German disaster on the scale of Stalingrad; I think it is wrong to expect it to be so.

There seems, however, to be a general restlessness all along the eastern front. There are stirrings at Leningrad and the German hold on the Kuban is once more at issue.

But above all looms the mighty fact that the Russian movements to the west are taking place four months earlier than they have done before. The winter had been looked upon as Stalin's ally heretofore. Is the summer changing sides?

BETWEEN SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS

By C. M. FRANZERO

HOMER tells in the Odyssey that Scylla was a dreadful sea monster with six heads, 12 feet and a voice like the yelp of a puppy; that she dwelt in a cave in a high rock out of which she stuck her heads and snatched seamen out of passing ships. Within bowshot was another rock under which dwelt Charybdis, who thrice a day sucked in and thrice spouted out the sea water.

Ancient legends always had a rational origin in some natural phenomena. Scylla was on the toe of the Italian peninsula where Reggio Calabria is now; Charybdis stood where Messina is. The ancient saying still used in current language—finding oneself between Scylla and Charybdis—referred to the dangers of crossing the Straits of Messina.

If you stand on the quays of the beautiful port of Messina, you see trains leaving the tip of the Italian peninsula with their passengers for Sicily for the narrow channels crossed by ferry boats which carry complete trains coming from Naples and Rome along the west coast of Italy and from Metaponto along the east coast. At their widest point the Straits are some ten miles wide, at their narrowest only two; but the ferry crosses by preference not from Reggio but from Villa San Giovanni, eight miles north of Reggio, whence the distance to Messina is only five miles. Reggio was totally destroyed in the famous earthquake of December 1908, and in the centre of the town nearly 40,000 persons perished.

MESSINA

Messina is, of course, the most important end of the Straits. It is a city of some 185,000 inhabitants, a population which for Italian cities is fairly large. Its history which would be too long to recount, goes back to the eighth century B.C. when Greek colonists changed its name from Zancle to Messene.

The importance of Messina is due to its harbour—a circular basin open on the north only, formed by a strip of land curving round like a sickle from which the city took its original name, Zancle, before it was changed to Messene.

EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT

The basin of Messina and the straits proper from one of the most extraordinary sights recorded by geography. At the north end a lowering of the water level by about 300 feet would produce a small isthmus which leads geographers to believe that the origin of the separation of Sicily from Italy may be post-Paleolithic. The straits were most feared by sailors owing to the rocks and whirlpools which gave origin to the legend of Scylla and Charybdis; and the currents do in fact present considerable difficulties, especially in a strong wind. The main current runs south to north and a subsidiary current in the reverse direction. They generally alternate every six hours and are affected by the sun, moon and winds. When the current runs from south to north, the level of water in the straits falls by six to eight inches. It rises as much with the other current; when the current is particularly strong it tears the seaweed from the bottom and sometimes throws up fish with abnormal eyes, and on stormy nights these luminous creatures of the sea give the straits a terrifying appearance.

It is over these narrow and most dangerous waters that the Germans will have to endeavour to transport their troops from Sicily when they will abandon, as usual, the Italians to their fate. Allied bombers overhead may well induce these Nazi invaders to think that the Homeric monsters of Scylla and Charybdis are not yet dead.

PUTTING HIS SHIRT ON

—Specially drawn for the *Madras War Review*.

AN ANARCHIST WHO CONFISCATED THE STATE

MUSSOLINI is an anarchist who has confiscated the State. He saw that the only means of conquering the State was to become the State.

"Down with the State in all its forms", he wrote in the *Popolo d'Italia* on April 6, 1920; "whether it be the State of yesterday or the State of tomorrow, bourgeois or socialist . . . The only faith we individualists hold is Anarchy." Mussolini was in his 37th year when he wrote that.

It would be wearisome to trace all the incoherence in Mussolini's writings and speeches. One thing is constant: the desire of the man to "arrive". And at the age of 37 he had not succeeded in arriving. The passage quoted above is a revealing *cri de coeur*. The man is irritated, exasperated beyond measure: he is capable of any violence, ready for any crime. His temperament is sombre. If others have too frequently made the mistake of not taking the Duce seriously, at least Benito Mussolini has always taken himself tragically.

It is impossible to discuss any dictatorship without studying the personality and character of the dictator; and that is peculiarly so with Fascism. No man has ever exteriorized a country, as he sees it, as he conceives it and as he wills it to be, more completely than Mussolini has done in the case of Italy.

He is the god of his own religion: he is his own god. He is man made god. He despises God made Man.

"As for Christ", he wrote at the age of 21, "he is probably a legendary figure, and in any case he is *piccolo e meschino* (ridiculously small and of no account). All he did was to convert a dozen ignorant vagrants, the dregs of the Palestine plebs." Mussolini never, in his most virulently anarchistic days, reproached the Church for being powerful (as he might have done). He reproached Christ for being weak (which He was not).

Mussolini confuses violence with strength. He is not the first man to have done so. But it is the key to his character.

AN UNPRINCIPLED CYNIC

In his political outlook Mussolini is entirely devoid of principle: he is a confirmed cynic. He has paraphrased Cowper's line in a hundred speeches "the age of virtuous politics is past."

The other quality is even more personal. It is that he is entirely unemotional. There is no tender spot anywhere in his composition. Even in those poignant moments that occur in all men's lives, not even his closest friends have ever seen Mussolini either moved, or manfully hiding emotion. At the time of the Matteoti crisis he was livid with terror—terror of the possibility of being dethroned, as he would have been if his Blackshirts had not countered opposition by instituting a reign of terror.

Bludgeon and castor oil did their fell work. The brilliant young Piero Gobetti—poet, philosopher and publisher, physically frail and constitutionally delicate—got on Mussolini's nerves.

Gobetti's pen was mordant, penetrating and ironical, and his publishing house had issued innumerable works against Fascism by the best Opposition writers. "Make Gobetti's life impossible" was the telegram the prefect of Turin received from Mussolini. His order was obeyed. Gobetti's house was pillaged, his books and manuscripts burnt, and he was beaten unmercifully. Desperately ill, he escaped to Paris, but hardly had he arrived there when he died of a heart attack.

The same thing happened to Giovanni Amendola, editor of the *Leonardo* review at Florence; he too had to go abroad to be operated for a lesion to the liver. He did not recover from the operation. "They have suppressed the liberty of the Press and I can no longer write", he groaned on his death-bed. "They have abolished Parliament, and I can no longer speak. They have struck me down, and I am dying. But all that is nothing. There is a tragedy far greater: they have murdered Italy."

It has been easy for him to play on the emotions of the Italian people. Like a clever actor-manager he has feigned emotion with consummate artistry. He has known how to make his effects tell, because he himself has been completely unmoved. He has played to the gallery when it suited him, but he has always performed with one eye on the box-office receipts.

The Duce has always been concerned to give a better life to the average Italian, because to be able to do so has flattered his egoism. But the life and liberty of Italians are mere "idiocy" if either stands in the way of Benito Mussolini's ambition.

He made this view quite clear in a speech he made in July 1924 before the National Council of the Fascist Party. Opposition to his unscrupulous methods had been universal in Italy, even in his own Party. "I am accused", he cried, "of taking away their liberty from the Italian people!" (Here, says the official account of the proceedings, the Duce smiles, crosses his arms and looks fixedly before him.) "But the Italian people", he went on, "has never asked me for its liberty!"

"I shall speak to you", he said to his audience at Milan, "with much calmness and frankness (the histrionic candour of the actor-manager) as becomes one Milanese when speaking to other Milanese." Then, after a speech of some length in which the beauty of Fascism was vaunted, he led up to this climax: "If there is a historical truth, it is this: the whole history of civilization, from the cave Man to so-called civilized Man, consists in a progressive limitation of liberty."

It was in this same speech (in 1924) that Mussolini proclaimed that Italy's choice was between "becoming the colony of another country and remaining a Great Power", adding that a Government such as his own had no need of collaborators. Well, it took something less than 15 years for Italy to become a German colony, precisely because Mussolini disdained the collaboration of some of the best intellects in Europe—Italians whose intellectual integrity was at the service of sane patriotism but not of a political pimp who was prostituting patriotism.

PERSONAL AMBITIONS

Both Hitler and Mussolini have always confounded their personal ambitions with their view of the national ideals of their compatriots. In Hitler's case, it was because he was a man of only one idea, the perfect specimen of the monomaniac, that he was able to convert the Greater Germany ideal of his fellow-countrymen into a bloody reality. But in Mussolini's case, it was only by abandoning every principle that he once professed and by throwing all the ideals of the Italian people to the winds, that he bludgeoned his way to power. The German dictator incarnates the *Fuehrerprinzip*, which has been the only permanent principle in German political conceptions from time immemorial. But the Italian dictator represented nothing and nobody but Benito Mussolini.

For the rest of mankind the ill-effects of what Fuehrer and Duce stand for may be much the same. But there is at least the possibility of difference, because of one fundamental dissimilarity in the make-up of the two men. Hitler never reasons. His is the terrifying obsession of the monomaniac, to whom all places of the earth are alike and with whom all argument is futile. There is in Hitler's brain no reasoning *processus* which an argument could set in motion.

With Mussolini the machinery of reason may not be an instrument of precision; but it exists and it works. It is, therefore, susceptible to modifications induced by currents of outside opinion. (Incidentally, Mussolini understands several languages.)

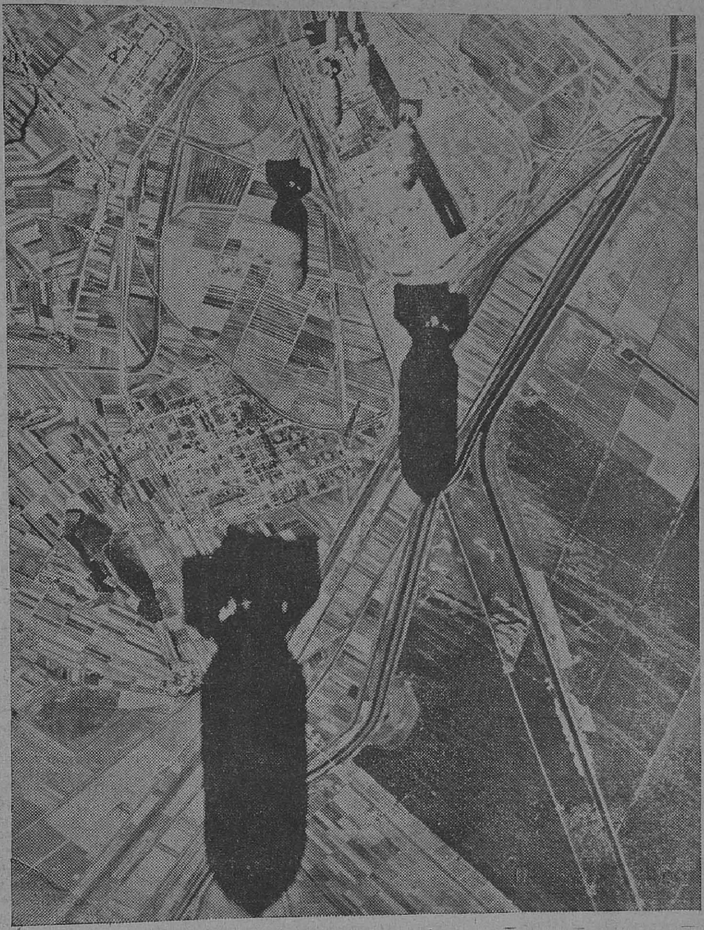
But—and the proviso is crucial—Mussolini's egoism is so strongly developed that he instinctively cuts off the current of any outside opinion which threatens to upset the line of reasoning by which he has already convinced himself.

MUSSOLINI'S EGOISM

A good proof of Mussolini's egoism is that he pretends to be annoyed that others should try to explain him. "I detest those who take me as a subject for their books and speeches", he exclaimed on one occasion. That is natural, for egoism is a tender plant which requires to be watered with ample doses of flattery; the fresh winds of criticism wither it.

On the other hand, there is a submerged element of commonsense in the Duce. At times it appears on the surface. "As a matter of fact", he confessed on one occasion, "my life is not really anything wonderful. There is nothing extraordinary about it that could strike the imagination; it contains no conceptions of new systems. It is an existence full of movement. That, yes. But after all, it is less interesting than that of Savage, the great English explorer."

That is an interesting piece of self-revelation and seems to give us the key to a permanent element in Mussolini's character. He is essentially restless. He adores *movimento*, and in another age he might have been, not perhaps a Columbus or a Bartolomen Dias, but a Cortez or a Pizarro—a ruthless *conquistador*. (Condensed from *World Digest*.)



UNITED STATES PRECISION BOMBING DESTROYS OIL REFINERY IN ITALY.—A stick of 500-pound bombs from a Flying Fortress bomber of the United States Army Air Forces drops toward an important oil refinery at Leghorn, Italy. The bombardier's targets in this precision attack are the oil tanks in the centre of the picture and the cracking and refining plants surrounding them. The bombs landed directly on the target.

MUSSOLINI TRICKED ITALY INTO WAR

BEFORE the war a violent anti-German mood prevailed all over Italy, among all classes, even among the Fascists; this fact has been attested by all who then lived in Italy and have since come from there.

The common-sense Italian man-in-the-street realized that 80,000,000 Germans entrenched in the heart of Europe, and led by men carried away by reckless imperialist exultation, could not be downed by either the 42,000,000 French or the 44,000,000 Italians—if French and Italians did not join hands to convince the Germans that war would not pay. Not even a Franco-Italian alliance would stop the German tide. Nothing less than a triple alliance of England, France and Italy could enforce peace. Disruption of France or England under a German onslaught could yield no advantage for the Italian nation. Italy would be confronted in Europe by one overwhelming power, and would be forced to act as a mere cog in the machine. This would mean the end of Italian national independence in favour of a single predominant power.

These thoughts existed more or less clearly in the mind of every Italian. It is no wonder, therefore, that the great majority of the Italian people revealed themselves unwilling to go to war on Hitler's side. Mussolini threatened "to clean up that small group of human dregs" that dared to disapprove of his policies. If that group had really been small, he would not have felt it necessary to get so excited over it. The truth was that he was not only disarmed but isolated and powerless among a hostile people. He had to avoid war as long as Italy was militarily and spiritually disorganized. It was necessary for him to gain time.

THE ARMY HAD NO BOOTS OR TROUSERS

At that time the Italian navy was in good shape and could make life difficult, if not impossible, for the British and French in the Mediterranean. But the air force was insufficient and obsolete, and the army had fallen into utter destitution. There was an appalling shortage of artillery, uniforms, boots and raw materials. The Ethiopian and Spanish wars had depleted all supplies. What had been left had been squandered in Albania. If one prefers to put it less heroically, one can say that Mussolini could not go to war since he had neither boots nor trousers.

Count Ciano admitted that he had informed Hitler that, especially as a consequence of the Ethiopian and Spanish wars, Italy needed at least three years to bring her war preparations up to the necessary level. Signor Farinacci, wildest among pro-German Fascist leaders, wrote in April 1940: "Last September, both because the conflict was then localized and because it had just broken out after four years of Italian wars, no other attitude than non-belligerence was possible." As a matter of fact, the conflict was not localized at all, since England and France had come in as soon as Hitler had attacked Poland. Thus, the only explanation for Italian non-belligerence was lack of armaments after four years of war.

Throughout the whole of the autumn and winter of 1939–40 no one spoke of the alliance with Germany. The silence was regarded as proof that Mussolini had split with Hitler, and that, had the English and French helped him to refurnish his army and air force and build up his defences at the Brenner Pass, he would certainly have

remained neutral. Or who knows? Perhaps he would even have joined the Allies against Hitler. While the English and French were dreaming with their eyes open, Mussolini organized throughout Italy a new campaign of propaganda. Germany was forgotten. No one spoke of anything except England and France. It was necessary to keep oneself in readiness to go to war, not at the side of the Germans, but rather against England and against France. Men are so made that it is easier to incite them to hatred than to love.

At the same time, the Rome foreign correspondents, channels of Fascist information and not independent observers, were instructed to send out the news that the King, the Crown Prince, and Badoglio had forced Mussolini to remain neutral, that the Pope was also exerting himself to remain neutral, and that therefore "Italy will no doubt remain neutral." This skilful campaign of misinformation had the desired effect. Mussolini, with the time so gained, remedied the hopeless military situation of the preceding summer, through help given him by the French and the British. According to a statement of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace of February 1, 1940, England bought from Italy 160,000,000 dollars worth of ships, machines, cars, and the like. French purchases amounted to about 80,000,000 dollars. As part payment, both the purchasers permitted importation into Italy of raw materials, such as coal, iron and metals. Mussolini took all this material, often postponing payment, and made very slow deliveries to his customers. Evidently he worked in the first place to restore the armament of his own army.

THE ITALIAN PEOPLE WERE TRICKED

Only a mad man would believe that Badoglio or the King or the Crown Prince could have hindered the outbreak of war. The King is incapable of taking any initiative for war or peace. And what about the Pope? Here, too, Fascist manœuvring with the Press was subtle. On May 5 the Pope delivered a sermon in a Rome church, at the end of which he implored the Most High to "disperse the whirlwind of death which crushes humanity." The foreign correspondents were instructed to give great prominence to this prayer, and to point out the fact "that the streets were jammed with enthusiastic citizens who cheered and clapped and waved," and that at the conclusion of the sermon the "congregation gave him a five-minute ovation." Italian newspapers of May 6, however, kept utter silence concerning the crowds in the streets, the sermon, and the applause at the end of it. Rather, on May 7, they announced that on the preceding day the Crown Prince had been received by the Holy Father. Thus the Press was made to represent for readers outside Italy that the Pope was working for peace, whereas the account of the reception of the Crown Prince, one of the two Italian Army chiefs, was meant to bring home to Italians that the Pope and the Italian Government were in agreement. Thus Mussolini succeeded in tricking the Italian people, as well as the peoples of the Anglo-Saxon countries.

When, on June 10, war was declared on France and Britain, it was more of a surprise in Italy than abroad. Mussolini had played a double game well, but he—and the Italian people—have since learnt that it is not worth the candle.—From *World Digest*, condensed from an article by *Gaeano Salvemini* in *the Dalhousie Review*, Nova Scotia.

PALERMO'S AID IN STRATEGY

THE possession of Palermo undamaged opens a new strategical vista encouraging to the Allies and disturbing to the enemy. Its implications are great, because they spring from the strategical principle known in military jargon as that of alternative objectives, observes the *Sunday Times* military correspondent. Our presence in Palermo in strength puts the enemy on the horns of a very awkward dilemma. Are they to expect further Allied landings in Sardinia or on the Italian mainland—say, near Naples? Those places are the same distance from Palermo and are not much more than 160 miles away. In the west of Sicily the Allies have captured other ports and excellent airfields. Both Sardinia and Naples are well within range of airborne troops. After their experience in Sicily, the Axis has good reason to fear them.

Mark the implications of this development so disconcerting to the enemy. The first reaction of the Germans will undoubtedly be to demand stronger, local reserves wherever they are threatened by sea-*cum*-airborne attack. But Axis armoured reserves are limited unless they start withdrawing panzer divisions from Russia, where they have just used up 15 in the Kursk salient, need all they can find at Orel, and are clamouring for more, no doubt, in the Kuban, on the Donetz and at Leningrad.

The Germans find that they are threatened by sea-*cum*-airborne attack in Rhodes from Cyprus, in Crete from Cyrenaica, in Southern Italy from Sicily and in Sardinia from both Sicily and Tunisia.

If the Axis Command—a polite euphemism for the German Command—decide that they must concentrate on the most likely line of Allied attack, which are they to call the most probable? There is so much to be said for each. It is true that some lead to Germany through the Balkans and some through France.

If the Allies want to meet the largest number of Germans in the shortest possible time, they will go through France. If they decide to knock Italy out of the war as the next step, they must enter Italy itself. If they wish to raise a hornets' nest around German ears in the Balkans, they will not invade that difficult area as the first step, for that would need an army of a million men with a huge fleet of transports and landing craft operating without any near-based fighter cover; they will feed the guerilla warfare there. The potentialities of that warfare are very great, and Germany in all probability will fight in Italy to hold it off.

The most confusing aspect of the matter from the German point of view, however—as they say themselves—is that Allied strength in the Mediterranean is now probably large enough to allow more than one operation to be launched at a time. This makes the allocation of reserves an impossible problem to solve with any certainty. All that the Germans can do is to guess the answer. Let us leave them to their guessing.

WOULDN'T THAT BE WORTH?

A Swedish industrialist who visited Berlin brought back this story of the temper of the German people.

A German conferred with the director of his bank. "I have saved 1,000 marks. How can I best invest them?"

The director suggested war bonds. "Der Fuehrer guarantees the security of your money."

"But Der Fuehrer is mortal, too. If he dies, what then?"

"Then Goering will be the guarantor of your money."

The client still protested, "Goering is a flyer. He might have an accident."

"Then," shouted the director, "you will have the whole Nazi party to be good for your money!"

The client was still unconvinced. "If the army is beaten, the party may also fall."

Thereupon the director leaned over and whispered, "Mein Gott, man, wouldn't that be worth to you 1,000 marks?"

GREAT LEADERS OF CHINA.—The late Dr. Lin Sen (left), President of the Chinese Republic, who passed away at the age of 81 on the 1st of this month, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, the new President of the Republic. Referring to the late President, a Chungking broadcast said, "Dr. Lin Sen was not merely a chief of the Chinese National Government: he was the embodiment of all the virtues that go to make up what the Chinese consider a statesman's greatest power".

JAPAN'S TWO CAMPAIGNS

By LORD STRABOLGI

THE combined offensive by American and Australian forces in the South-West Pacific should have important results. After the crippling of the American sea power at Pearl Harbour and the British and Dutch naval losses sustained in the attempt to defend Malaya and the Dutch East Indies, the Japanese position was so strong that they were able to make a series of advances until August of last year.

Their conquest of Burma created a serious threat for India and, at the same time, their occupation of the greater part of New Guinea and the islands in the east of it, including the Solomons group, brought them to a position in which they could begin to menace the lines of communication between the Pacific coast of North America and Australia.

American naval recovery was primarily due to the heavy warship building programme begun three years before the Japanese intervention in the world war. Whatever the strength of the American isolationists before the declaration of war on the United States by Japan and her European allies, all parties had agreed on the necessity of building a two-ocean navy and construction of a vast number of warships, authorised by Congress, was well in hand.

American and Australian air forces in this theatre of war have established a marked ascendancy, both numerically and technically, over their opponents. The only advantage the Japanese have enjoyed is possession of forward airfields and naval bases. If these are captured, their situation will become very much worse.

Whether the Japanese can make a great naval diversion depends on whether they are prepared to risk the remnants of their somewhat attenuated naval forces. Since the beginning of hostilities, the Japanese have lost three battleships sunk and another 10 have been heavily damaged. Even allowing for repairs to the latter, it is doubtful if the Japanese can muster more than half a dozen heavy warships fit to fight in line of battle. It is known that six of the American battleships put out of action at Pearl Harbour are again on commission; it is known also that a strong force of newly built American battleships are at sea and ready for action.

HEAVY LOSS OF AIRCRAFT

The Japanese have also lost heavily in aircraft-carriers, cruisers and destroyers and the tendency will be to preserve the remainder of the Japanese fighting fleet for operations nearer home.

An action fought off New Guinea between the opposing fleets would take place at a great distance from Japanese dockyards. These are the nearest repairing bases where large warships can be docked. This would mean that damaged ships would probably become total losses.

The same disadvantage would rest on the American naval forces which would be about the same distance from Pearl Harbour or Sydney as the Japanese would be from their own home bases.

But behind the American fleet is the British Navy, the war losses of which have all been made good and which has a margin to spare over and above the requirements of the Mediterranean campaign and the force needed to counter any action by German warships in north European waters.

Japanese commanders owe their spectacular successes in the Pacific to a temporary naval advantage, as already described, but if this situation were reversed, then it would only be a question of time before their conquests were in their turn isolated from the Japanese islands.

The present operations may, from the Allied view-point, be aimed only at a defensive offensive; that is to say, removal of any further threat to the territories of Australia. Later, however, they may be developed on more ambitious lines. Roosevelt has stated publicly that he and his advisers have rejected the policy of inching their way forward from island to island in the Pacific.

Certainly, it would be a long and costly business in difficult climatic conditions to drive the Japanese from Dutch East Indies islands one by one. With the exception of Java, these islands are mountainous and for the most part covered with thick jungle and with a great lack of roads and railways. But if the Japanese could be ejected from the easternmost group, where battles are now raging, it would be possible to mount an assault making use of the predominant air power for the capture of the scattered archipelago formed by the Caroline Islands.

ALLIED STRATEGY

These with the Marshalls further east were mandated to Japan under the treaty of Versailles and, contrary to the terms of that treaty, have been converted into advanced naval and air bases. They are many and scattered and cover an immense area of the ocean. Their conquest

(*Continued on page* 18)

BOMBARDMENT OF HAMBURG

By WING COMMANDER L. V. FRASER

IT is not possible at present to tell the story of the detailed planning which has brought about the most concentrated air attack on any city in the world. The full results of the recent day and night raids on Hamburg will not be known for some time, but it is clear that the air forces of Britain and America based on the British Isles have now been forged into a single weapon capable of inflicting unprecedented destruction on the enemy's war machine. Besides this combined attack even the 1,000-bomber raids of the Royal Air Force of 14 months ago are dwarfed.

It is significant that this greatest air blow of all time was achieved with such proportionately small Allied losses. The defences, powerful though they were, could not cope with the aircraft arriving with clockwork precision.

After such a prolonged attack, it is hardly surprising that long after the last raider had left, Hamburg was still covered by a dense pall of smoke. That fact alone makes it obvious that full damage cannot be quickly estimated. Impossible as it was to photograph more than a fraction of the port, however, those taken by an early reconnaissance pilot are already some guide to the destruction which the Royal Air Force and American air force have wrought between July 24 and 26.

WHERE BISMARCK WAS BUILT

One of the best known firms in Germany is Blohm and Voss. Their Hamburg shipbuilding yards are one of the largest and the most important in the Reich. Both the 3,500-ton *Bismarck* and the 10,000-ton *Admiral Hipper* were built there and many submarines besides.

Photographs, giving only a fraction of the damage as they do, show that many of this firm's buildings have been hit. The fitters shop, smithy, boil-makers and coppersmiths shops, engine erecting shop, boilerhouse and power station, construction shops, foundry, two tool sheds and the Diesel testing shop—all these are already known to have been damaged. One of the dry docks has sunk, another is heeled over. Blohm and Voss will not be able to deliver their full quota of U-boats for some considerable time.

Another important shipbuilding yard in Hamburg is Howaldswerke which like Blohm and Voss has an international reputation. Photographs also show that this large yard was badly hit. Its framebending and plate furnaces were still burning when the Royal Air Force reconnaissance pilot flew over the port. Its angle bar smithy and shipbuilding machinery sheds were all hit.

Further devastation is hidden under the great clouds of black smoke and can hardly fail to be considerable. The city's industries generally may be counted with those in the Ruhr in the growing list of German industries devastated by air bombardment. There will be more.

PLANS OF LONG MONTHS NOW IN ACTION

Hamburg is the second largest city in Germany with 1,700,000 inhabitants. For 72 hours, the A.R.P. services fought fires—and failed to put them out.

Bombing in the ordinary way can be crippling. The battle of the Ruhr proved that. But the Allies have waited 18 months for this scale of round-the-clock bombing to come true. Significance of the Hamburg attacks is that it is no longer a dream but an established fact.

JUDGMENTS

I. Lost Leaders

You that talked loud of freedom but excuses found
To turn your backs when others fought the tyrant—Mourn!
Heaven knows you not at all; and when you tread their ground
Hell's legions, vile but faithful, turn their backs in scorn.

II. Mercenaries

Brave men, that heard the call to arms, and fought, and won,
Returning to your own land proudly say
"We took our wages from our King: our duty done.
We ask our critics, Whence sought you your pay?"

III. India's Dead

In life divided by pride, tongue and creed,
In death you shared a single faith. And Fame
Casting in Africa your blood for seed
Plants unity for India whence you came. —*R.G.*

JAPAN'S TWO CAMPAIGNS

(*Continued from page* 17)

would not be so formidable an undertaking as, for example, land operations for the recapture of the great islands of Java, Sumatra and Borneo.

If the Allies could establish themselves in the Caroline Islands, they would be on the flank of the Japanese sea communications between Japanese home bases and the Philippines, **French Indo-China and Malaya**. Successful operations of this nature would go far to weaken the strong strategical position won by the Japanese during 1942 by their conquests in the South-West Pacific. Apart from the heavy losses suffered by the Japanese regular navy, merchant ships, acting as transport for troops and supplies, have also been depleted.

Japan is fighting two campaigns. That in China and Burma is being fought by armies and air forces. It will be decided by soldiers, fighting on land, and aircraft, based on landing fields on the mainland of Asia. The second campaign is being fought over the immense ocean distances of the Pacific. It will be decided by warships and by aircraft which are now an integral part of our naval strength and by possession of island bases.

The first battles for the defeat of Japan in this ocean campaign are now being fought in and around the great group of undeveloped tropical islands east of New Guinea.

THE SETTING SUN: JAP NAVAL LOSSES

(*From start of War to 6th August 1943*)

Japanese naval losses are compiled weekly from United States Naval communiqués, as well as from reports issued by General MacArthur's headquarters. Because of possible minor duplications, which cannot be determined at the time reports are issued, the two totals cannot be accurately combined.

SUMMARY FROM NAVAL COMMUNIQUES.

Combatant ships.	*Sunk.*	*Probably sunk.*	*Damaged.*
Battleships	2	..	9
Aircraft carriers	6	1	7
Cruisers	25	4	47
Destroyers	74	20	62
Submarines	6	1	6
Tenders	1	1	4
Unspecified types	25	3	17
Total	139	30	152
Non-combatant ships	250	24	113

SUMMARY FROM MACARTHUR COMMUNIQUES.

Combatant ships.	*Sunk.*	*Probably sunk.*	*Damaged.*
Battleships	..	..	1
Aircraft carriers	1	..	2
Cruisers	11	..	21
Destroyers	21	3	25
Submarines	10	..	2
Tenders	2	..	..
Gunboats	4	..	..
Torpedo boats	1	1	1
Unspecified types	1	1	1
Total	51	5	53
Non-combatant ships	198	30	191
Unidentified	14	..	15

In addition to these ships reported as sunk, probably sunk and damaged by General MacArthur's forces, there are 280 miscellaneous small craft such as barges, fishing boats, etc., which have been "sunk or damaged."

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

5TH AUGUST.—Aircraft of the Bomber Command attacked objectives in the Ruhr and the Rhineland. Three German E-boats were sunk off Calais.

A meeting of the Pacific War Council was held in London, the Premier presiding.

The German U-boat headquarters spokesman, Heinrich Schlick, said: "The enemy defence in the Atlantic has got the better of us."

6TH AUGUST.—Goebbels announced that Berlin had been partly evacuated. He said: "We expect the German capital will be the target of enemy attacks."

8TH AUGUST.—According to a New York message, a military coup was likely to occur in Germany to replace Hitler by an army veteran.

M. Emmanuel Tsouderos, the Greek Prime Minister, said he would not be susprised if Germany suddenly collapsed well within six months.

9TH AUGUST.—According to *Journal de Geneve*, not only Berlin, but most other German cities were being evacuated. According to an Istanbul message, Berlin was to be declared an open city.

10TH AUGUST.—The Gestapo headquarters were shifted from Berlin to Prague.

According to a neutral report, four million people had been evacuated from the bombed towns in western and north-western Germany.

11TH AUGUST.—The Royal Air Force bombed Nuremburg. More than 1,500 tons of bombs were dropped. Four E-boats were blown up off Brittany.

Lord Halifax, British Ambassador in Washington, arrived in England.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

7TH AUGUST.—Admiral Ernest J. King, United States Chief of Naval Operations, said to-day (on the anniversary of the invasion of the Solomon Islands), that the Allied world strategy aimed at keeping China in the war against Japan and exerting "every possible effort" to assist Russia.

8TH AUGUST.—Colonel Frank Knox, United States Secretary for the Navy, proposed a three-point programme as a contribution by the United States to the rebuilding of the world after the war. They were: (i) Contributions from its military strength to world security; (ii) contributing to an economic system for a free exchange of goods throughout the world; (iii) establishment of a world in which people wanting freedom could achieve it.

9TH AUGUST.—President Roosevelt returned to Washington after a week's holiday in Canada.

10TH AUGUST.—Mr. Elmer Davis, Director of the United States Office of War Information, predicted at a press conference that a third front would eventually be opened in Western Europe.

Mr. Churchill arrived in Canada for war talks. Mr. Churchill, it was reported, would confer with President Roosevelt after his talks with Mr. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister.

Previous Churchill-Roosevelt meetings were: (1) In August 1941 on board H.M.S. *Prince of Wales* to draw up the Atlantic Charter; (2) in December 1941 in Washington after Pearl Harbour; (3) in June 1942 in Washington with shipping experts; (4) in January 1943 at Casablanca where the "unconditional surrender of the enemy" declaration was signed; (5) in May 1943 in Washington with Field Marshal Wavell to plan Allied offensive in south-west Pacific.

The Daily Mail's diplomatic correspondent said: "Mr. Churchill's immediate object is thought to be reconsideration of the plans laid down at the Casablanca Conference."

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

5TH AUGUST.—Heavy bombers of the United States airforce attacked the Japanese rail road base at Thanbyuzayat in Burma. Targets in Central Burma were also attacked. At Wetlet, rolling stock tracks and supply dumps were hit. At Moksogyon rail road installations were damaged.

General George Stratmeyer, former Chief of Staff, United States Army Air Force, arrived in Delhi on an "undisclosed but important" mission.

6TH AUGUST.—A Chinese military spokesman declared that the Japanese were increasing the number of troops in Burma.

8TH AUGUST.—The Royal Air Force bombed Maungdaw. One hundred and fifty Japanese river craft were attacked and damaged along the Irrawaddy.

9TH AUGUST.—The Royal Air Force attacked Japanese railway and water communications in Lower Burma. Country-craft and samhans along the coast between Gwa Bay and Ramree Island were attacked with cannon and machine-gun fire.

General Sir Edward Pellew Quinan, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, North-Western Army, retired from service for reasons of health at his own request.

10TH AUGUST.—American bombers attacked the Irrawaddy ports of Katha and Bhamo in Burma.

Twenty-four men from a British ship torpedoed in the Indian Ocean arrived at a group of islands in the Indian Ocean after being at sea for nearly a month.

11TH AUGUST.—The Government of India sanctioned the raising of fourth unit in the Civil Pioneer Force in Madras Province—two Tamil companies and two Telugu companies.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

5TH AUGUST.—Allied troops occupied Catania-Paterno also was captured. The Eighth Army veterans broke the greatest bastion of the Etna line. With the fall of Catania, the Sicilian campaign entered its final phase.

Mr. Henry Stimson, United States Secretary for War, announced that American casualties in Sicily up to July 22 were 6,741, including 500 killed; 3,871 were wounded and 2,370 missing. The Axis losses were substantial.

According to Allied military observers, the autum and winter would see the beginning of major assaults against Hitler's European Fortress.

According to well-informed American sources, Badoglio had already made definite approaches asking for an armistice.

It was authoritatively stated that Italian aircraft in certain parts of the Balkans had been forcibly taken over by the Germans.

It was revealed that the Anglo-American Governments were subsidizing bread for the Sicilian civilian population.

6TH AUGUST.—According to messages received from the Italian frontier, there was a widespread conviction throughout North Italy that peace negotiations had begun.

According to reports from Italy, crowds in Italian cities were shouting for Marshal Badoglio's resignation and his replacement by Crown Prince Umberto. In Turin, the demonstrators shouted in the streets "Badoglio must go!"

At a meeting of the Italian Cabinet, it was decided to proceed with the elimination of all laws not corresponding to the spiritual and legal traditions of the nation.

The Rome Radio said: "The Italian financial situation is very grave". Fascist Party funds in all banks were frozen.

The vanguard of the Eighth and the Seventh Armies were only 50 miles from Messina. There was fierce fighting round the town of Troina. In the central sector of the Sicilian front, Italian and German units were engaged in defensive combats.

The Algiers Radio announced: "No Axis ships have entered into Messina Straits for a whole fortnight."

It was officially revealed that the Punjabis, Rajputs, Pathans and Baluchis were operating in Sicily as defence troops.

7TH AUGUST.—A Royal decree extending the state of siege over the whole of Italy was published.

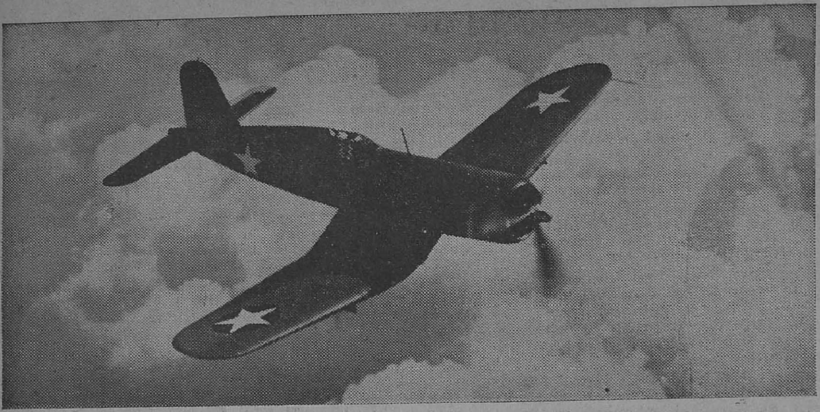
The Diplomatic Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* stated: "The present Italian Government fears popular upheaval in the country at least as much as the Allied invasion."

The Italian Foreign Minister and the German Foreign Minister, Von Ribbentrop, met in northern Italy. It was reported that the Germans had concentrated 15 to 18 divisions in north Italy.

The Americans captured Troina. The Eighth Army was near Adrano. Pravina, an important key town on the central front in Sicily, was entered by American troops. United States naval and military force, it was reported, occupied the island of Ustica on August 5. Heavy air raids were made on San Giovanni.

8TH AUGUST.—The Allied troops captured Adrano. The Eighth Army captured Mascalucia and Belpasso. There were air raids of great dimensions on Turin, Milan and Genoa. Considerable damage was caused.

9TH AUGUST.—The Eighth Army was 25 miles from Messina Straits. Acireale and San Maria de Licodia were captured. The Seventh Army made unopposed landing behind the enemy lines on the north coast and captured 300 prisoners.



NEW UNITED STATES NAVY FIGHTER PLANE GOES INTO ACTION.—This is the new United States Navy F-4 U Corsair fighter, now in action in the South Pacific. The plane has a 2,000 horse-power engine, and is armed more heavily than other pursuit ships without sacrificing its manœuvrability and its speed, which is in excess of 400 miles an hour. In a recent engagement over the Russell Islands against 25 Japanese Zeros, Corsairs accounted for 15 or 16 enemy planes shot down by United States fighters.

Reuter's Special Correspondent wrote: "The battle for Sicily is over and won. It is now a question of who can walk the fastest." The German evacuation of Sicily was speeded up.

General Montgomery said: "The Germans in Sicily are doomed. The days of the Boches in Sicily are numbered." Three crack German divisions were trapped in the Messina bridge-head. The Germans seized an Italian ship in the Adriatic port of Pola after overwhelming the sentries on guard.

According to a Swiss correspondent, the Germans were ready to withdraw from southern and central Italy, if the Italian Government would guarantee that Italy would not be used as an Allied base.

Sir Stafford Cripps, British Minister for Aircraft Production, in a speech at Bristol, said: "We want to see a real people's Government in Italy which has the courage to break with Germany and surrender to the United Nations."

10TH AUGUST.—Certain German units were trapped behind the Bronte-Cesaro line. Allied troops advanced on Randazzo, keystone of the German defences in Sicily. All possible Axis escape routes were pounded by Allied bombers.

The Italian News Agency said: "Nobody wants to deny that the Italian people want peace, because peace means an end to the horrors and sacrifices of war."

According to a report from Madrid, Italy would continue in the war with still more active military help from Germany than ever before.

11TH AUGUST.—Guardia on the east coast of Sicily was captured. The Eighth Army was now in sight of the Italian mainland. An Axis convoy was attacked off Corsica. Prisoners taken totalled 125,000, of whom 95,000 were taken by the Seventh Army and 30,000 by the Eighth.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

5TH AUGUST.—It was officially announced that Byelgorod had been captured. The German troops evacuated Orel. The Germans retreated on all sectors of the Orel front, abandoning masses of equipment. General Rokossovsky's armies pursued the retreating Germans with the cry, "On to Briansk!" Mr. Henry Stimson, United States Secretary for War, said that the Red Army's advance to Orel represented a major defeat for the Germans.

6TH AUGUST.—It was officially announced that Knomy (35 miles south-west of Orel) had been captured. The Russians launched a new offensive on the Kharkov front. The *Pravda* said that the Germans suffered heavy losses at Orel and their divisions "melted like sugar in boiling water" . . . "Despite categorical orders to hold Orel at any cost, the Germans were forced to retreat."

7TH AUGUST.—Russian forces made a big advance on Kharkov, the main German base in the Ukraine. The railway junctions at Bryansk and Kharkov were raided by Soviet aircraft. The German forces stood in the greatest danger of being caught by a princer movement.

The Germans admitted that the Russians had broken through the German front south-west of Byelgorod. The German General Von Zorn was killed in the fighting around Orel. It was revealed that one million Soviet troops took part in the Orel battle.

Between July 5 and August 5, Soviet troops inflicted the following losses on the enemy: 120,000 officers and men killed, 5,605 tanks destroyed, 1,623 guns smashed, 11,000 lorries destroyed and 2,492 planes brought down.

8TH AUGUST.—The Russians captured Bogodukhov on the Kharkov-Sumy railway.

9TH AUGUST.—The Russians captured Lebedka, west of Orel. Three Soviet armies converged on Karachev, one of the vital points in the outer defences of Bryansk. The Kharkov railway was cut. On the Kuban bridge-head, the Russians continued their attacks.

10TH AUGUST.—The Russian army was battering at the suburbs of Kharkov. The Germans began their retreat. Berlin announced the launching of violent new Russian attacks east of Smolensk.

11TH AUGUST.—The Kharkov-Poltava railway line was cut. The Red Army broke into the German lines in the Upper Donetz.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

5TH AUGUST.—Sweeden cancelled her transit traffic agreement with Germany.

10TH AUGUST.—M. Hussein Yalchin said in an article in *Vatan*: "When we are called upon to enter the conflict under our treaty obligations with Britain, we shall not need pushing."

M. Emin Yalman addressed an open letter to President Roosevelt, appealing to him not to insist on the principle of unconditional surrender which was an expression of the spirit of vengeance.

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VICHY, FREE FRENCH AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

7TH AUGUST.—Hand-to-hand fighting between French patriots and German troops broke out in Paris.

10TH AUGUST.—The Yugoslav Government resigned.

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THE FAR EAST

5TH AUGUST.—In the Solomons, the Americans on New Georgia Island pierced the Japanese defence in the eastern end of Munda airfield.

It was reported that Japan was shifting her main strength from the Solomons and New Guinea to the Netherlands Indies, presumably in anticipation of a concerted Allied drive.

Mr. Stimson, United States Secretary for War, said that the Japanese had revived their air offensive in China and were heavily attacking American airfields.

6TH AUGUST.—The Japanese drive north of the Burma Road in western Yunnan Province along the Salween river was flung back. Chinese forces attacked Japanese positions west of Nanchang (capital of Kiangzi Province), inflicting considerable casualties on the enemy.

Munda was captured. One thousand six hundred and seventy-five Japanese were killed. [Munda was the Japanese key base in south-west Pacific.]

7TH AUGUST.—A Chinese Military spokesman said that Japanese warships were cruising along the China coast, shelling coastal towns in Fukien and Kwangtung Provinces.

More than 200 casualties were inflicted when Chinese units in southern Hupeh attacked Japanese positions at Kehtien.

Admiral William F. Halsey, Junior Naval Commander-in-Chief, South-West Pacific, said: "The United States, will carry the war into Japan itself."

Mr. J. Curtin, Australian Premier, revealed that the Australian Government had established a submarine base at Exmouth harbour on the west coast of western Australia.

8TH AUGUST.—A Japanese attack in Honan Province was repulsed.

In a naval engagement in Vella Gulf, west of the island of Kolombangara, a Japanese cruiser and two destroyers were sunk.

9TH AUGUST.—The *Manchester Guardian* wrote: "Germany is too far along the road to defeat for Japan to lead her to victory and any attempt on Russia would only make Japan's hard-won task far harder by opening to Britain and the United States the way of a near approach.

A Chinese military spokesman declared that criminal insubordination and desertion were increasing in the Japanese army.

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